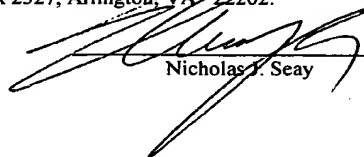




I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date set forth below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P O Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

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Nicholas J. Seay

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Richard L. Atkinson
Nikhil V. Dhurandhar

Date: November 12, 2002

Serial No.: 09/619,117

Examiner: Ali Reza Salimi

Filed: 07/19/2000

Art Unit: 1648

Title: VIRAL OBESITY METHODS
AND COMPOSITIONS

Our Ref: 710395.90010

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RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P O Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 9, 2002 in the file of this application, the applicants amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please withdraw Claims 4, 7 and 8 without prejudice and amend Claims 2, 5 and 6 as follows:

2. (Twice Amended) A method of determining whether an obese person is suffering from viral obesity caused by adenovirus type 36p, the method comprising the steps of isolating from the person a sample selected from the group consisting of a body fluid, feces, a sample of tissue and a sample of an organ from the person and; assaying the sample by an immunoanalytical method to test for the presence of an epitope of the adenovirus type 36p